

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (ORIGINAL) A method comprising:
receiving in an information processing device a bid for airline travel, wherein the bid includes an amount the bidder is willing to pay per unit of distance flown; and
determining whether the bid is acceptable to a seller of air travel services.
2. (ORIGINAL) A method comprising:
using a wide area network, displaying to a potential bidder an indication of the air travel distance between two cities; and
accepting a bid to purchase an airline ticket for travel between the two cities, wherein the bid includes a cost per unit distance the bidder is willing to pay.
3. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 2, wherein prior to accepting the bid, displaying the total amount bid to the bidder, wherein the total amount bid is calculated at least in part based on the cost per unit distance bid and the distance between the two cities.
4. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the bid further includes a base fee that is fixed in amount.
5. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 2 wherein there is further displayed to the bidder a fixed base fee that is required to be paid in addition to the per unit distance fee in order to bid on an airline ticket.
- 6 -32. (CANCELED)
33. (ORIGINAL) A method comprising:
generating a bid for airline travel on a first information processing device, wherein the bid includes a cost per mile portion;

transmitting the bid from the first information processing device over a communication link to a second information processing device; and

receiving a bid response on the first information processing device from the second information processing device over the communication link.

34. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 33, wherein the bid further includes a fixed cost portion.

35. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 31, wherein the bid further includes an origin, a destination, a date for the airline travel.

36. (CANCELED)

37. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 36, wherein the bid is transmitted and the bid response is received over the global computer network.

38. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 33, further comprising:
determining an airline travel mileage;
calculating the total cost per mile portion by multiplying the airline travel mileage and the cost per mile portion;
summing a fixed cost portion and the total cost per mile portion; and
wherein the transmitting the bid includes transmitting the sum of the fixed cost portion and the total cost portion.

39. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 33, wherein receiving a bid response includes receiving a bid rejection and a counteroffer for airline travel.

40. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 39, wherein the counteroffer for airline travel includes a fixed cost portion and a cost per mile portion.

41. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 39, wherein receiving a bid rejection and a counteroffer for airline travel includes receiving only a counteroffer that operates as a bid rejection and a counteroffer.

42. (ORIGINAL) A computer readable medium with instructions thereon that cause a suitably configured information processing device to perform the method of claim 33.

43. (ORIGINAL) A system comprising:

a first information processing device including:

a processor;

a storage device;

an input device;

a communication link;

software operable on the processor to:

receive input for generating a bid for airline travel, wherein the bid includes a cost per mile portion;

submit the bid in a carrier signal over the communication link to a second information processing device;

receive a response in a carrier signal over the communication link from the second information processing device.

44. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 43, wherein the response from the second information processing device includes an indication that the bid is accepted.

45. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 43 further comprising:

an output device; and

software operable on the processor to:

generate an output from the output device in response to receiving a response

from the second information processing device.

46. (CANCELED)

47. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 43, wherein the input further includes:

an origin;

a destination; and

a date for travel.

48. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 43, wherein the communication link is operatively coupled to a communication network.

49. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 48, wherein the communication network is a global computer network.

50. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 43, wherein the information processing device is a wireless telephone.

51. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 43, wherein the information processing device is a personal computer.

52. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 43, wherein the information processing device is a personal digital assistant (PDA).

53. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 43, wherein the second information processing system is a group of information processing devices that are operable in concert to receive and reply to submitted bids.

54-57. (CANCELLED)